

HSC Mat furn

Review Staff: 75/3333/1
17 November 1975

Mr. A. Searle Field
Staff Director
Select Committee on Intelligence
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Attn: Mr. Kirschstein

Dear Mr. Field:

On 6 November, Congressman Treen asked for Agency comments on allegations contained in a 29 October article in the New Orleans Times-Picayune. (Copy attached.)

It is requested that Congressman Treen be passed the following information in response to his query:

The Agency has no knowledge whatsoever of sugarcane destroying worms being sent into Cuba in the heel of an Indian citizen. The Agency also knows nothing whatsoever of a plot to infect Cuban livestock by the introduction of African Swine Fever.

In 1971, a massive outbreak of African Swine Fever was detected in Cuba. State Department reporting after the fact indicated that the disease had come into Cuba via dried, uncured meat imported from Spain. To prevent possible spread of the disease to the United States, the Department of Agriculture conducted a massive swine inoculation program in the Southeastern States. The Agency played a significant role in detecting the disease within Cuba, and was commended by both the Departments of State and Agriculture for its work.

We hope that this information will be helpful to Congressman Treen. Please advise us when this information has been passed to him.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Donald A. Grepp
Review Staff

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CIA Cane Plot Told Breaux by Cuban Aide

By KENNETH WEISS

(Times-Picayune Staff Correspondent)

(C. 1973 by The Times-Picayune Publishing Corp.)

HAVANA, Cuba—Louisiana Congressman John Breaux said Tuesday he has been told the CIA once sent sugarcane destroying worms into Cuba concealed in the shoe heel of an Indian national.

Breaux said the story was related to him by his escort from the Cuban Foreign Ministry, and that a higher official in the ministry "agreed with" the story when he related it to her.

According to Breaux, who described the alleged incident as something out of James Bond, he was told that when the Indian national was caught by Cuban authorities, he told them the CIA was involved in the plot to destroy Cuba's sugarcane industry.

The sugarcane worm story was the second such alleged act by the CIA related to Breaux since he arrived here Sunday to investigate the possibilities of resuming trade with Cuba.

The first story as originally reported involved an alleged CIA plot to kill Cuban cattle by infecting them with encephalitis or African fever disease.

Breaux said that he had apparently misunderstood what was being told to him regarding that. Instead of cattle being infected, he said, a large number of swine became diseased and were destroyed.

Breaux said he was told the sugarcane worm incident occurred about 1967 or 1968. The plot to infect swine with diseases was said to have occurred four years ago, he said.

The congressman said he was told the sugarcane worms "had done a great deal of damage." The Indian was deported, he said.

"It's like a James Bond story," he said.